

Remarks

This preliminary amendment is filed for the purpose of placing the application into standard U.S. format. Consideration and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

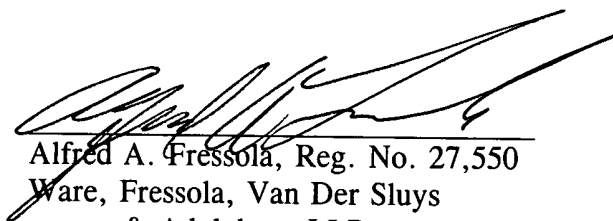
Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 3 - 12 have been cancelled and claims 13 - 21 have been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Paragraph beginning at line 6 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

Bridge joints are required primarily because of thermal expansion and contraction in the roadway of a bridge. Also they accommodate initial [contract] contraction on setting of concrete in the roadway and relative shear and rise/fall of adjacent roadway sections.

Paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 2 has been amended as follows:

Preferably, the support formations are open, circular section grooves; and the crossbeams have spherical ends which fit into the grooves. The grooves may be supplemented by support lips abutting the underside of the crossbeams, particularly where the edge beams are not expected to rise and fall with respect to each other.

Paragraph beginning at line 9 of page 3 has been amended as follows:

The crossbeams support a number, three as shown, of intermediate roadway beams 20. They are of general I-beams shape, with small grooves 21 in their heads 22. The edge flanges 8 of the edge beams also have such small grooves 21. Via these small grooves a diaphragm seal 23 is connected between each adjacent pair of roadway beams. These seals exclude water and dirt from the parts of the joint beneath them. The heads of the roadway beams

provide the roadway surface between the concrete of the roadway sections 2, 3. Feet 24 of the intermediate beams rest on the crossbeams. These transfer road loads to the edge beams via the balls 14 and lips 16 at the lower side of the mouth of the grooves 9.

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In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended.

Please cancel claims 3 - 12 have been cancelled. Claims 13 - 21 have been added.

1. (Amended) A bridge joint for joining two sections of a roadway of a bridge, the bridge joint comprising:

. a plurality of roadway beams extending [laterally of] across the roadway and including;

. opposite edge beams having support formations extending therealong, the edge beams being adapted to be fixed to respective opposite ones of the roadway sections and

. intermediate beams;

. a plurality of crossbeams extending between the opposite edge beams,

. the crossbeams having end formations which are complementary to the support formations of the edge beams,

the crossbeams being supported by engagement of the end formations with the support formations, whereby the crossbeams remain mutually parallel as the edge beams move with respect to each other, at least whilst the edge beams remain parallel and the crossbeams and the intermediate beams being adapted for support of the intermediate beams on the crossbeams; and spacing features fixed on at least some of the crossbeams and co-operating with the intermediate beams for evenly spacing the latter between the edge beams

characterised in that the support formations of the opposite edge beams are open, circular section grooves; and the end formations of the crossbeams have spherical ends, sized to fit the grooves.